

## Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, December 2, 1885, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Scott Circle, 1500 Rhode Island Avenue December 2, 1885. Alec my darling:

Are you not ashamed of yourself when you think what an hypocritical letter you sent me Sunday night, or did you really expect me to swallow your innocent good wishes for Miss R. and her betrothed. You cannot expect me, knowing your fondness for romancing to believe you did not mean more than appears on the surface, or that you did not connect Miss R's mysterious illness with her young physician. I don't think anything of what you tell me of Mr. Radcliffe's way of life. We are very wealthy and live handsomely and yet have not a cent to spare. Mr. Radcliffe might have enough to live in the way you describe and not enough to help his brother or to leave a margin against a rainy day.

I spoke to the Dr. today. I said I had had a letter from you in which you spoke of having been to see his brother and that Miss R. asked you to come and see her, but that it was so dark you could not see her face. That the Dr. was there when you called and you had thought him very young. He laughed and said, yes, but some people liked young doctors, he rather preferred them himself but that there were two brothers both friends of his and doctors and both attended his sister however she preferred the younger. He said he had not yet heard from his brother and knew no more than contained in the telegrams I had seen. One this afternoon announced her convalescent and said "letter mailed". The Dr. said it was a relief to hear from you that she had not typhoid.

He has moved over into the Lab., he went yesterday while I was out and did not tell me until this afternoon. I went over at 2 once to see if I could do anything and to try and persuade him to come and stay here and let us have the house cleaned and white washed, but he said Mr. Taintor was still there and he preferred waiting until he left. He

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said Mr. Maguire and Mr. Rogers rather objected to his turning them out of the reading room but he thought he might as they did not pay rent. He is sleeping in Chester's chemical room. I did not see what I could do for him then but thought I would go and rummage tomorrow in his absence and take Miss Palmer to protect me against my trouble with Maguire and Co.

I asked Mr. Gleason to have a district Mess. call put in in the central office. The rent is only \$1.00 and I should feel much happier to know the police within call in your absence. I am not nervous but would like to feel that I can call help if I want to. We had a calm and comfortable night last evening.

Yours with much love, Mabel.